



Principal's Message

Families,

Can you believe it's June already? In this, our final newsletter of the year, I want to say a few things. First, I'd like to share with you some of our accomplishments this year. Then, I'd like to inform you of some staff farewells. Finally, I'd like to give you some insight into the exciting things that lie ahead for Coates in 2018-19!

A Banner Year for Coates

We accomplished a lot thanks to your support and the superior work of our awesome teaching staff. This year, we were able to provide laptops to all students in grades 5 & 6 for most of the school year. As I write this, our final shipment of laptops has arrived, ensuring that 4th graders have a 1:1 (computer : student) ratio moving forward. This couldn't have happened without Title I funds, PTA fundraising, and contributions from partners like Heritage Fellowship Church. Thanks for giving our kids what they need to be 21st century learners!

We created and implemented a new mission for Coates, and our staff refined their teaching to not only cover the SOLs, but to nurture students in becoming strong individuals, collaborative teammates and bold thinkers. We created the "Ready to Shine" Lab and its associated challenges for upper grades, we added high-rigor challenges to our math units, and our advanced academics teachers worked with their teammates to ensure that all students at Coates – even those not in AAP classes – were given high level challenges and were taught using teaching strategies designed for gifted learners whenever possible!

Our PTA accomplished big things, including our grandest Fall Festival to date, two free Family Movie Nights, after school clubs, various fundraisers, our annual spelling bee, restaurant nights, and an amazing International Night. These events brought us together as families and raised money that brought down field trip costs, bought computers, and more.

We reduced serious discipline referrals. Compared to last year, we improved our ratings on our internal Employee Engagement Survey (FCPS tool that asks staff to rate working conditions). And while I do not have access to official SOL scores yet, I am confident that we did well even after our big improvements last year. Stay tuned!

Farewell

Each year, schools will say goodbye to some staff members. We have terrific teachers at Coates, and we're sad to bid farewell to the following stars. Through their moves to other jobs or opportunities, they're improving their commutes and/or family time:

Mrs. Jennie Monkeliën (kindergarten), Ms. Gina Denney (kindergarten), Ms. Emmy Kane (1st), Ms. Jaime Delgrosso (1st), Mrs. Karen Cerino (2nd), Mrs. Naila Zahid (4th), & Mrs. Shelly Herbert (art).

(Con't on next page)

I am thankful to these great educators for their service to our school and our kids. If you have worked with these teachers, please take the time to say goodbye.



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Mark Your Calendar

June 7—Rising Kindergarten School Tour, 10-10:40
June 12— Field Day (K-2, 9:30-11:10 / 3rd-6th, 2-3:30)
June 15 -- 6th Grade Promotion Ceremony, 9:30am
June 15 — Last day of school; dismissal at 2:00pm

July 11— Playground Playdate for Rising Kindergarteners,
5:30-6:30 PM

Aug. 8 - Read Aloud for Rising Kindergarteners, 10-10:30

August 23— Open House /Back to School Night 5:30pm

August 28— School Begins



School Supplies Made Easy!

Great news! PTA is working through EPI to offer pre-packaged, complete school supply kits for next year. See the flyer in this week's Thursday Folder or go to www.educationalproducts.com/shoppacks

School ID: Coa034

Principal's Message (con't)

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What's Next for Coates

We never have the ability to announce comprehensive plans for the following year. We must await direction from FCPS over the summer so that we are aligned with the system's priorities. However, I can tell you a few things:

We'll continue to look at our curriculum to find ways to enhance it so that it fits our mission. If we just cover SOLs, how special are we as a school?



**THE
POSITIVITY
PROJECT**

#OtherPeopleMatter

All teachers will be using the Positivity Project approach with their students next year. We'll use class meetings as a forum for learning about and discussing specific character strengths and virtues like kindness, humility, bravery, and perspective. You will be thoroughly looped in with what we're doing so that you can reinforce these character strengths at home. We're excited to offer this to our kids!

FCPS is following new expectations from Richmond that require all classes to have more unstructured recess time next year. In some cases, this will be a longer recess period. In some grade levels, this will be two shorter recess periods. We'll be drafting schedules that honor this new rule while maximizing instructional times.

We'll continue to ensure that our school feels like a reassuring place where your child can thrive. I've already hired some new teachers for next year to join our stellar staff. Hiring is my most important duty, and I take it seriously. I am confident that you'll be very happy with the new faces you meet next year.

On a final, unrelated note. Thank you for encouraging your neighbors to register for kindergarten next year. Our enrollment looks very healthy. If new neighbors move in during the summer, please ask them to come to school ASAP to register their children. It takes a village!

Jesse Kraft, Proud Principal